

Business Notices.

WHEELER & WILSON'S SEWING-MACHINES.
 Attached prices, with Glass Cloth, Press, Improved Loop
 Check, new style Hemmer, Binder, Sewer, &c., 250 Broadway.

New-York Daily Tribune.

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1861.

Proposals for the Nine Million Loan were opened at the Treasury Department yesterday. We give the bids and rates in another column.

It is said that the army of the Union will at once advance and occupy Winchester. This is the capital of Frederick County, Va., some 80 miles north-west of Washington and 32 miles from Harper's Ferry, and is the terminus of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad, leading to Harper's Ferry, where it joins the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. To march upon Winchester is to take the Disunion force at Harper's Ferry in the rear, and cut off their communications. At the same time they will no doubt be attacked from Pennsylvania in front.

We print this morning the presentment of the Grand Jury against Andrew J. Hackley, made yesterday in the Court of General Sessions. It recites the well-known facts in regard to the \$40,000 paid for awarding the street cleaning contract, and the illegal and hurried manner in which the contract was passed by the Common Council. It shows, also, that the contract has never been complied with, but that its plainest provisions have been set at naught; that the force of men employed in cleaning the streets has never been half enough to perform the work properly. The health of the city in consequence of this criminal neglect of duty, is seriously imperiled, and the Grand Jury submit that it is the duty of the Controller to refuse to make any further payments upon the contract. The Superintendent of Sanitary Inspection, upon whose certificates of the "due and faithful performance of the contract" payments have been made, should, it seems to us, receive a little more attention at the hands of the Grand Inquest. The presentment points out the duty of the City Inspector in the premises, and suggests that the Police Commissioners cause their patrolmen to report the street-cleaning operations on their several beats. This duty of right belongs to the Street Inspectors, but it is well known that they are either in collusion with the defaulting Contractor or utterly neglectful of their duty. Their services, therefore, might and should be dispensed with at once, for their only use at present is to draw nearly \$21,000 a year from the City Treasury. The Health Wardens and their Deputies receive about \$50,000 a year more from the Corporation for duties already performed by the Police, with much greater fidelity. At least \$70,000 a year might be saved to the tax-payers by the removal of these drones, while the duties which they pretend to perform could better be confided to the Police without costing one cent to the Corporation.

LATEST WAR NEWS.

New-York was thrown into great excitement yesterday, by a rumor that an attack had been made upon our troops at or near Alexandria, by a large rebel force, and that a desperate fight was in progress. It was evidently well founded, and came from high authority. Of course, the 5th, 6th, and other city regiments, were involved, and the public anxiety was extreme. The first announcement was made at about noon, and several dispatches affirmed the truth of the story, until at 5 o'clock came a contradiction—there was no fight. There seems to have been a slight skirmish with some pickets, but nothing of moment. A large force left Washington for the scene, but came back disappointed. The dispatches under our telegraphic head tell all that is known of the matter.

From Fortress Monroe we learn that there had been no decisive movement up to Friday, except an extended reconnaissance by Gen. Butler along James and York rivers. The fortress is very strongly manned, and some important step is hourly expected. Another attack is promised upon Sewall's Point. In the last affair, four of the five rebel guns were dismounted, and it is thought that five or six of their men were killed. The blockading squadron have taken several more prizes. Late last night we received a report from Washington that Gen. Butler had taken Sewall's Point with a loss of eighty-four killed and wounded, and that the rebels had lost from three to four hundred, beside six hundred prisoners, with other particulars, none of which we believe. Indeed our special dispatch directly contradicts the whole story.

The first New-Hampshire Regiment will arrive in New-York this morning, and will go forward at once to the seat of war. An armed steamer, the South Carolina, sailed from Boston on Friday for Fort Pickens. She takes out seamen for the fleet, and munitions of war.

An influential Baltimorean, the President of the Maryland Agricultural Society, has been arrested by the Federal Government on charge of burning bridges on the Northern Central Railroad.

Travel on the Baltimore and Ohio Road is interrupted by the Rebels at Harper's Ferry. There are various stories of fighting there, but nothing trustworthy.

The death of Col. Ellsworth calls for universal regret, mingled with a stern demand for vengeance. Unusual signs of respect are offered all over the loyal country.

The New-York State Military Board have completed the organization of the thirty-eight regiments authorized by the late law. There are some companies left, who will not be disbanded until it is known that there is no place for them in the organized regiments.

New-York City has already raised 21 regiments of volunteers, and all of them have been regularly organized by the State authorities. She is ready to send as many more, if need be, to uphold the Constitution and punish treason.

Col. Ellsworth's funeral was the painful object of attention yesterday in Washington. No mark of respect and regret was omitted. The President and his chief officers were in attendance. The body of the noble martyr will reach this city this morning.

Our troops west of Alexandria have destroyed several bridges and torn up tracks on the railroad, so that a sudden advance of the enemy is impracticable in that direction. A number of Secessionists and one or two railroad trains were taken by the Sixty-ninth New-York Regiment and the President's Guard.

VIRGINIA.

Virginia has plucked down vengeance upon her own head. Had she yielded to the loyal counties of Caldwell and Carlisle, of the Western counties, and been true to the Union, or even followed the more timid advice of Bolts and Summers, and occupied neutral ground, the storm of war would have passed her by. But she has thrown herself under the lead of Pryor, Garnett, and other young hotspurs, who, dragging the more cowardly and discreet Hunters and Letchers in their train, are precipitating her into the gulf of perdition. Nobody pities her. She passed her Secession Ordinance in midnight conclave, keeping it a secret from the world, so that the traitors might steal the Federal arms, ships, and munitions of war, at Norfolk and Harper's Ferry. She has compelled her people to go through the solemn farce of ratifying her rebellion at the polls, by voting for the ordinance at the bayonet's point. She now proposes to hunt out the friends of the Union in the Eastern counties, and compel them to battle against their old flag, or flee from the State, or be decimated by the sword. And, at Alexandria, she has just crowned her infamy by murdering a brave officer for pulling down a rebel flag which floated in full sight of the National Capitol. Long the nursing mother of Treason, but without the courage to act openly and strike boldly like her rebel sisters on the Gulf, this cowardly old hypocrite is about to receive just retribution for her crimes. As the elder Napoleon said of Prussia on the eve of the battle of Jena, "Her destiny is determined; let it be accomplished!"

"WHOSE FEET MAKE HASTE TO SHED BLOOD."

Wherever an ally of the Secession conspirators raises his voice throughout the patriot States, his logic runs in this groove:

"The North and the South are radically diverse—inviolably so. The South has become convinced that her safety, her development, her interest, require a separation from the North. She is rightfully the sole judge in a matter so vitally affecting herself, while it but secondarily, incidentally affects others. The sacred principle of Self-Government implies this—affirms it. Then why not let her go in peace?"

We answer—Because she did not choose to go in peace—did not, in fact, choose to go at all. Had she so chosen, with any fair approach to unanimity, and been content to allow reasonable time for the accomplishment of her purpose, we should have heartily supported her movement, as we have often stated, and as our adversaries delight to quote. Gerrit Smith, in his letter to the Peace Society which we published the other day, states the case forcibly thus:

"The South might have left us in peace, had she but asked us to let her do so. But tyrants cannot ask. They take without asking. More than this, we would soon have acquiesced in her breaking out of the nation, could she but have restrained herself from wearing upon her flag the stars and stripes of the Union. If she preferred another government to ours, is there not at least a seeming oppression and measure in our depriving her of the means of supporting it?"

That the Republicans generally, and President Lincoln especially, gave a hearty assent to Kentucky's proposal, last Winter, of a Constitutional Convention, is well known. Had but Virginia backed that proposal heartily, we think it would have been carried; had the Gulf States needed to it, there would have been no serious opposition. And a Convention would have had power to recognize and conform to the Secession of the South, which neither the Executive nor Congress possesses. A Convention is above the Federal Constitution; all other depositaries of civil power are subject to and bound by it. If the Secessionists shall prove too strong for the patriots, a Convention will have to be called at last. Then why not begin where, after the sacrifice of a hundred thousand lives, we must—should the Secessionists prove invincible—be content to end?

We answer—and it is the core of the whole matter—the traitors have forced the controversy to a bloody issue because they could not otherwise even begin to succeed. They are not a bit fonder of absorbing bullets than other men; but they are bent on breaking up the Union, and they could only carry a majority of the Slave States by rushing into rebellion. Had peace been preserved and the laws obeyed down to the 4th of March last, and had the People of the Slave States, after a dispassionate reading of Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural, been called upon to vote on the question—"Shall we remain loyal to the Union, or shall we break out of it?"—we have not a doubt that a great majority of them would have voted to remain. Throughout the last Winter, any man in the Slave States who suggested the propriety of waiting for Mr. Lincoln's Inaugural and to see whether the Republicans would do anything objectionable, was denounced by the conspirators as a "subversionist" and an enemy of "Southern rights."

The Jeff. Davies, Rhett's and Yancy's of the South reasoned thus: "It is now or never with us—if we cannot break up the Union upon the 'election of a Republican President, we never can. But a majority of our people—as we 'learned to our cost in 1850—love and cling to the Union, insisting that whatever evil may be 'apprehended from the result of one election is 'to be cured by the issue of the next. We can 'succeed only by appealing to force, and thus 'making up a bloody issue between Slavery and 'a Republican Administration, which will 'compel all who adhere to Slavery to back us; and 'that secures not only the triumph of disunion, 'but the adherence of all the Slave States to our 'Confederacy.' Hence the inauguration of civil war by corrupting Federal officers, seizing forts, armories, arsenals, custom-houses, mints, sub-treasuries, &c., until our inconceivably meek and patient Government was fairly driven to take up the gauntlet so recklessly thrown down.

Even after the rebellion had been ostentatiously proclaimed, Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Arkansas resolved to stand by the Union. Not till that most atrocious bombardment of Fort Sumter was it possible to suck them into the whirlpool of Secession. But the tidings of that bombardment and its result, which aroused and united the Free States in behalf of the Union, had a precisely contrary effect on the Slave. They saw Slavery grasping for life or death with the Union, and this was sufficient to inaugurate a terrorism which compelled nearly all to take, or seem to take, the side of insurgent Slavery.

We reiterate that *Disunion might have been*

effected without a loss of blood if the People of the South had heartily desired it. It was because they did not, and could not otherwise be pushed into Secession, that the original traitors deliberately incited and inaugurated this most atrocious War.

REMEMBER TEXAS!

When the day of reckoning with the authors of this atrocious slaveholding treason shall have arrived, we pray that the case of its Texas "Confederates" shall receive special attention. Let us here briefly set forth their claims to such distinction:

Texas was wrested from Mexico's feeble grasp by Pro-Slavery filibusters who migrated from this country for that express purpose. The original colonists from this country were mainly Northern men, and not slaveholders. Slavery was unknown there until years after it was solemnly and finally abolished by Mexico. The slaves carried thither in 1836-6 were so introduced in notorious defiance of law, and were legally entitled to their freedom the moment they crossed the boundary. The revolt against Mexico, however it may have been technically justified on other grounds, was made in the interest of Slavery. It was zeal for Slavery Extension that impelled the South-Western crusade whereby the ranks of the insurgents were kept full. It was Slavery that impelled Gen. Gaines to march his force of U. S. regulars into Texas in aid of the Filibuster interest. It was Slavery that invited and justified the robbery of U. S. guns from various Western Armories, whereby the insurgents were armed. It was Slavery that triumphed at San Jacinto, and that shouted over that triumph in the United States; it was Slavery that prompted our Government's thinly disguised support of the rebels throughout; it was Slavery that beat Van Buren in the Democratic National Convention of 1844, nominated Polk and forced an Annexation Platform upon the Democratic party. It was Slavery that triumphed in Polk's election, though many Abolitionists, who ought to have known better, contributed indirectly but powerfully to that result. It was Slavery that thereupon consummated Annexation. It was Slavery that backed the preposterous claim that Texas rightfully extended to the Rio Grande, and sent Gen. Taylor to take possession accordingly, thereby plunging this country into a war as unjust and immoral as ever was waged. Hence Slavery plausibly claimed all the territory acquired by that war, and was savage at her failure to secure it.

Baffled in that result, Slavery tried to dissolve the Union in 1850, when Jeff. Davis, Rhett, Yancy, &c., were as keen for dismemberment as now. But Cobb, Toombs, Orr, Letcher, &c., were not yet ripe for treason, and the plot miscarried. Texas was bought up to stand for the Union by a bribe of Ten Millions of Dollars out of the Federal Treasury. Very soon thereafter, Eleven Millions were paid for the sterile but argentine desert west of her Northern boundary then called Mesilla, now known as Arizona, which her politicians coveted, and which they now pretend to have secured.

The money lavished on Texas by the Union—in maintaining her unjust claim of the Rio Grande as her Western boundary—in bribing her to acquiesce in the compromise of 1850—in acquiring the Mesilla valley at a most exorbitant price—in enlightening and defending her people throughout the last sixteen years—raises to an enormous aggregate. When she began this rebellion, her frontiers were guarded against Indians and Mexicans at a cost of not less than Three Millions per annum; her postal service cost over Half a Million more, while her Indians and Indian Agencies, Federal Judiciary, &c., &c., must have cost at least another Half Million; so that, in a state of profound peace, the Union was supporting her at a cost of Four Millions per annum, of which not one-fourth was returned to the Treasury in Imports, Postage, and every other shape. If she has not proved a hard bargain, there never was one.

Yet in 1850, her turbulent, insatiable demagogues commenced a new agitation. Their war-cry was the reopening of the African Slave-Trade; their real object was to stimulate and somehow profit by slaveholding fanaticism. Some meant disunion; others as yet did not. They were beaten in the election of a Governor by the popularity and energy of Sam Houston; but they carried the other State Officers and Legislature, whereby the illustrious Wigfall was pitched into the Senate, which he has since adorned. The substantial fruits of victory thus earned to the demagogues.

For years, a desultory persecution of Northern immigrants, especially those connected with the Methodist Church, had been carried on in the back settlements. In 1859, this persecution was aggravated and rendered systematic under a false pretense of a conspiracy to incite a slave insurrection. One or two fires occurred, which were readily charged to Abolition incendiaries; and it was alleged that large amounts of strychnine had been seized, with the slaves were instigated to poison the wells! On these vague, unproved, most improbable charges, hundreds of Northern immigrants and travelers were seized and hung without judge or jury, and no person who belonged to the "Methodist Church North," especially no preacher, was spared in the infected district unless he saved himself by precipitate flight. The accusers, judges, witnesses (by guess), jury, and executioners, were the same persons.

Secession, with such groundwork in popular clamor and prejudice, took an early start in Texas. The Legislature was somehow got together, a Convention called, the State assumed to be thereby put out of the Union, and a popular vote taken thereon, which resulted (according to the official count) in a large Secession majority. That this election was corrupted both by terrorism and fraud, is clear; but it is remarkable that Texas is the only State wherein the act of Secession has been ratified by a semblance of a popular vote.

So far, Secession had run its course in this as in other States; and the seizure by the traitors of Federal arms, munitions, provisions, vessels, and even money, has been paralleled elsewhere. But the combined treachery and miscellaneous rascality by which so large a portion of the troops stationed in Texas for her special defense by the Federal Government have been made prisoners of war, and some of them even enticed or driven into the traitors' service, stand as yet without parallel. When the treason of Twiggs and a few other officers had disesteemed the soldiers of their natural leaders and means of subsistence and warfare, a capitulation was arranged, under which they were to leave Texas unmolested, retaining their side-arms. But the Star of the

West, sent down to bring away part of them under this arrangement, was treacherously seized, and the troops just ready to embark in her surprised and compelled to surrender. And, in order to induce the entrapped soldiers to desert their colors, Maj. Sprague states that these lies were circulated among them in the freshest New-Orleans papers:

"President Lincoln fled from Washington; Gen. Scott retreated and joined the Confederate States; Tennessee, Kentucky, Maryland, and Virginia on the 10th of the month, the Seventh New-York Regiment cut up en route through Baltimore for Washington; fifty thousand men from the South surrounding Washington, and 100 women and children notified to leave; Gen. Scott Navy-land taken by Virginia after a sharp conflict—forty Union men killed."

—Even thus deceived, dismayed, and confounded, very few of the rank and file could be bribed or bullied into deserting the good old flag; the traitor officers were left nearly alone in their shame. But thus has Texas recompensed to the Union the burdens and sacrifices she has imposed on it.

Ought not such high-handed villainies to arouse a patriotic indignation? Shall they not nerve the strong arms that strike for the Union? Can true and lasting peace be secured by according impunity and triumph to the authors of such wholesale crimes?

DEFECTION—PAST AND PRESENT.

The country has been struck with amazement at the wholesale treachery or cowardice developed in almost every branch of the Government service by officers who had sworn fidelity to it. Europe has been equally astonished with ourselves, imputing it to a lack of genuine, honest love of country peculiar to Americans, an absence of all respect for the highest obligations which men can assume, and thence inferring that the whole tone of society among us is so thoroughly demoralized that the great Republic of the earth is fast crumbling to ruin. We need not stop to analyze the crudities of a conclusion so natural to those whose distance from us prevents their understanding the premises on which it is based. Time and better information will perform their inevitable office of enabling them to distinguish the great truth which underlies the huge mass of disloyalty now existing among us. As we understand it ourselves, so will they in time become equally familiar with it. This public amazement was the natural impulse of every honest mind, whether here or elsewhere. Its universality in the North and West afforded the best possible evidence that the national heart was sound. Every subsequent revelation of events has been a corroboration. The reverse of this proposition must be true—they only who felt no such amazement must be vile. But when startled by the thunder-clap from a cloud whose overhanging blackness assured us of the coming discharge, we think no previous flash so vivid, no former explosion so terrific. It is thus in all human affairs. Absorbed in the exciting agitation of the present, we forget the instructive parallelism of the past.

This wide-spread infidelity to the Government is no new incident in American history. If a modern serpent approached the heroic Scott with infamous proposals, so Duche, whose sublime prayer as chaplain to the Continental Congress melted the hearts of his audience as often as he beat to repeat it, fell away from his loyalty, and enjoys the sole infamy of having sought to corrupt Washington. While this wretch was praying to Almighty God for the success of the Revolution, his heart was black with treason. The Whigs of Virginia were so alarmed at the idea of Independence that they sent Carter Braxton to turn the vote of that Colony against it, if any question on that subject should come up before Congress. Though John Adams urged the adoption of the Declaration with impetuous eloquence, yet it was carried with great reluctance, and doubt and hesitation prevailed even in Congress. Jefferson wrote that "even after the commencement of hostilities, the possibility of separation from England was contemplated with affliction 'by all.'" John Adams went even further than this, declaring that "there was not a moment during the Revolution when I 'would not have given everything I possessed for a restoration of the state of 'things before the contest began, provided we 'could have had sufficient security for its continuance.'" Galloway and the Alibens of Pennsylvania abandoned the Whig cause. So, also, did the Skinners of New-Jersey, the Bayards, De Lancys, and De Peysters of New-York, most of them commanding companies or regiments. William Stark, the brother of the hero of Beaminster, left it, and took up arms for the British. Washington's friend, Mackenzie, did the same. Truly, a delegate in Congress from Georgia, turned traitor outright. Gen. Reed, made timid by Washington's disasters in New-Jersey, had his timidity removed only by the victory at Trenton. Nathan Hale was recognized by one of his own relatives while on his perilous mission, and by him was betrayed to a death upon the gallows. Washington's life was several times attempted, and cabals, instigated and shared in by officers of high rank, were formed to disgrace him. The sympathies of even such a man as Alexander Hamilton were at first in favor of the Royal side, as he himself admits in his reply to Wilkins. The kinemen of Van Wart, who captured André, were Tories. Every State had its regiment of traitors, just as many have them now. Arnold, who commanded one, was no worse than Beauregard or Pryor. He sought to give up only a single fort. Archibald Hamilton of New-York at one time commanded seventeen companies of Tories. When Charleston was threatened by the British, her citizens refused in a body to aid in her defense, and when captured they flocked with disgraceful sympathy to the enemy's standard, eager to abandon principle for safety.

The clergy generally refused to support the Government, and either sided with its enemies or fled. Most of the great lawyers did the same, and the violence of the Tory doctors was notorious. Of the newspapers, five abandoned their colors and became traitors. Judges, Governors, and other functionaries without number fell off in the same way. In fact, the history of the time shows that the Whigs were as unstable as the wind. Interest governed many of them then as now. When their armies had achieved a victory, all were jubilant and firm. When they feared the Government was about to be overthrown, they hastily abandoned it, as our Southern traitors have been doing under a like impression. When dominant in cities, they organized mobs and committed frightful excesses, rivaling the mob atrocities of Baltimore. When avowed in these strongholds by the presence of hostile bayonets, they slunk away as quib and powerless as do the Baltimore ruffians

now. No less striking were the alternations from fear to defiance and from defiance to fear among the Tories. Thus human nature in all ages preserves its characteristics.

The timidity of some Whigs in those days, and the defection of others, should be looked upon with lenient eyes. They were fighting to overthrow an odious Government for causes which the civilized world has long since acknowledged to be just. Yet that Government was one of fearful strength. Failure upon their part would have made them homeless fugitives, hence the fear of it was constantly before them. Success would elevate them to the status of a nation, insure them peace, plenty, and liberty, and challenge the admiration of the world. Not so the foul rebellion now seeking to overthrow the beneficent Government they established. Its leaders have turned traitors for greed, not for glory; not to establish Liberty, but to perpetuate Slavery. At the outset of their career they are confronted by the execrations of all Europe. The Whigs of the Revolution stole nothing—these do nothing else but steal. They look for the reward of treason in the certainty of success. But their very beginnings so shock the moral and religious sentiment of the age, that success will be as fatal to them as failure. Terminate as the contest may, their utter ruin is among the certainties of the future. Their infatuation appears to be as complete as it is hopeless. Nothing short of the terrible baptism of blood can remove it. For the treachery or cowardice of our fathers there is much to be pleaded in extenuation; but for the treason of this confederacy of ruffians, the world has already decided there is nothing.

The defection among our army officers ought to occasion the country neither sorrow nor alarm. It is well they went off early. It purged the service, at the right moment, of men whose later infidelity might have done incalculable harm, and hence is rather cause for rejoicing. We now understand who are true. Neither should we fear that there will be none as worthy to fill their places. This contest will yet surprise the country by the multitude of competent and heroic officers, who have thus far lacked nothing but opportunity for proving themselves such. Captain Lyon's capture of the Missouri rebels and their encampment is a case in point. The country never heard of this Connecticut hero until then. Captain Cole has done admirable duty in dispersing other bands of Missourians. Both these officers will be heard of again. General Butler has already established a brilliant reputation, yet he had never been in the field until he broke up the rebellion at Annapolis, and restored order at Baltimore. The raw material now under arms is quite as serviceable as the petted hordes of epauletted traitors who have been quartered on the Government from the South. In addition to these unnamed heroes, whose future gallantry will yet electrify the nation, there are scores of officers at the head of companies and divisions who have seen as much service as the rebel chief himself. We have no more cause to fear a lack of able officers than of gallant soldiers.

SANGUINE.

Hard-hearted Mr. Blair is depriving the country of a fund of amusement in cutting off our Southern mails, whereby the letters of secession bloods are remorselessly denied us. As a class, though their orthography and grammar were indifferent, their high tragedy vein was exceedingly comic, and their pathos apt to be decidedly laughable. Here is a specimen brick from one of our latest—from Mr. Jacob Pond, of Augusta, Georgia:

"The Union can be reconstructed but upon one plan only, and that will be—
 'I. We are destined to be an independent nation, and all foreign goods passing through the Confederate States or Western States in the Union or in the United States, will be allowed to pass free of duty; and when they lay on the United States duty when they enter your territory, the people will begin to open their eyes and commence to kick, swearing they will not pay such a duty to support Northern manufactures. But, before we can assist them with the presence of our army, they must adopt our constitution, and then—
 'II. We will not allow another war to leave you, until you and New-England will be left alone to supply her own people with goods; and finally, in order to sell them to us, even internal and hypothetical duties will be adopted the slavery constitution of the 'Union' to sell them; if we will let her.
 'Now rest assured, Mr. Greeley, that the Union is safe, and upon this plan.
 'If you fight us, we will whip you, and the result will be the same."
 —Yes, we see! But what puzzles us is the universal confidence of the Secessionists that they can and will "fix out" the Unionists joined with their evident anxiety that we should take their word for it, and not give them a chance to prove it. If they were Quakers or other non-combatants, we could understand this; but, as they notoriously are not, we pause for explanation.

The feeling which prevails among the loyal volunteers of Missouri, is expressed in the following letter from Col. B. Gratz Brown to *The St. Louis Democrat*:

"I perceive that in speaking of the United States troops under my command, they are usually designated by the Press of the city as a 'Home Guard.' To this I have only to say that, while they were primarily mustered into service for the protection of St. Louis, and a military occupancy of this, the key to the Valley of the Mississippi, yet that being now secured, I have, with the united approbation of my officers and soldiers, ordered my entire regiment for active service, wherever and whenever their presence may be deemed useful. The 4th Regiment desire nothing so much as active service, especially in Missouri."
 —R. G. QUAY, BROWN.

"Col. A. H. R. B. R. C." The people of the country need no new assurance that whenever Col. Brown and his comrades may be called by the voice of duty, they will fulfill every obligation like men and like Americans.

We print on our first page a very full and entirely accurate account of the occupation of Alexandria and the murder of Col. Ellsworth, from one of our special correspondents, who went up to the roof with the Colonel to haul down the Rebel flag, and was so near at the time of the murder as to have his hand on the victim's shoulder. His letter is painfully interesting. We also present a life-like portrait of Col. Ellsworth, taken from *The New-York Illustrated News* of a recent date.

It does not follow that because an ambitious man is not fit for anything else, he is therefore fit for a colonel. The Duke of Wellington, when Commander-in-Chief, said there were generals in the British army who did not know enough of their profession to get a brigade out of Hyde-Park. In the severe contest which is upon us, let our motto be, "The right man in the right place."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS.—The total number of deaths in this city last week was 87, of which 16 were males and 41 females. The principal diseases were: consumption, 11; scarlet fever, 7; inflammation of the lungs, 5; nervous, infantile, 4; small pox, 3; varioloid, 3; croup, 3. Under one year of age, 23. Natives of United States, 63; Ireland, 16; Germany, 4; England, 3; British America, 1; unknown, 1.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

MOVEMENTS AT FORTRESS MONROE

THE ATTACK ON SEWALL'S POINT.

SEVERAL REBELS KILLED.

ANOTHER ATTACK INTENDED

THE BLOCKADE—MORE PRIZES.

The Mails Still go to Western Virginia.

THE FUNERAL OF COL. ELLSWORTH.

THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET ATTEND.

Reported Fight at Harper's Ferry

ARREST IN BALTIMORE FOR TREASON.

TRAINS DETAINED AT HARPER'S FERRY.

Sorrow for the Death of Col. Ellsworth.

EXCITING RUMORS OF A BATTLE

A GENERAL CALL TO ARMS.

REPORTED FIGHT AT ALEXANDRIA.

Rapid Movement to the Scene

ALL RUMOR—NO FIGHT.

ANOTHER DOUBTFUL STORY.

AN ALLEGED FIGHT AT SEWALL'S POINT.

Rout of the Rebels with Great Loss.

THIS, TOO, CONTRADICTED.

SECESSION OUTRAGES ON UNION MEN.

More Rumors about Harper's Ferry.

NO ATTACK THUS FAR

THE RAILROAD TRACK TORN UP

Late Visit to Alexandria.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Saturday, May 25, 1861.

VISIT TO ALEXANDRIA.

I have just returned from a visit to Alexandria, made in company with two gentlemen who were in that city during the early part of this week, before the Secession spirit had been laid. Virginia begins to assume an active military appearance at the termination of the bridge leading from Washington, which is closely guarded, no crossing being permitted without special passes. The first guards stationed are taken from the New-York Seventh and another Regiment, which are encamped at Hunting Park Race Course, a short distance from the shore. The hotels and refreshment booths along the main road were all under watch, the proprietors taking frequent opportunities to affirm themselves the strongest Union men in the world. When it was suggested that it might not have been safe to express such sentiments a week ago, they said, if it would they hoped they might die.

FORTIFICATIONS GOING UP.

Just beyond the Seventh's camp a formidable fortification, commanding the head of the bridge, is about completed. The trenches were dug and the earthworks raised by detachments from the Seventh and the New-Jersey troops. The men all working vigorously with pick and shovel, in spite of a fierce sun. A thick grove which had surrounded the spot had been entirely levelled, and the trunks of trees removed. The works are progressing under the direction of Major Bernard, Engineer-in-Chief. The officers under him are Captains Alexander and Blunt, and Lieutenants Prime, Hunter and Robert, all of the regular army engineer corps. The last named is a South Carolinian by birth, and has ten uncles in the Confederate army; one of them a general in Georgia. Other requisite fortifications are forming at strong points about Washington, one of them covering the aqueduct bridge at Georgetown.

REPORTED FIGHT.

As I was about leaving the works, a report came in that the 25th or the 12th New-York Regiments had been menaced with an attack, and that the 7th had been summoned to their assistance. The New-Jersey troops were seen at a short distance forming in line of battle, and the time there was considerable excitement in the neighborhood. The New-York men were found to be ignorant of any real cause for the movement beyond the above report, which had also reached them.

WHAT CAUSED THE EXCITEMENT.

A mile or two further on we discovered that a picket-guard of the New-York 12th had been fired upon by a small body of armed Virginians, who had immediately turned and fled without waiting to see the result. Nobody was harmed. It did not however appear that this incident was the only cause of the preparations. For about one o'clock a signal of three guns was heard, the prearranged warning at the Capitol.

ALL OVER, AND ALL QUIET.

After this, there was no indication of trouble on the road to Alexandria. The place was perfectly quiet, and although many places of business were closed, the citizens were mingling unreservedly with the soldiers, and discussing recent events with them. A few private residences were closed. Adams's Express Office was inaccessible, and the banking houses were sealed to the profane invaders of the sacred soil. The people naturally appeared